

TROIDES ALEXANDRAE SPEC. NOV.

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MR. A. S. MEEK has added another very interesting discovery to the many made by him in the Papuan Subregion. In January 1906, while travelling from the north-east coast of British New Guinea inland to the headwaters of the Mambaré River, he met with a species of *Troides* unknown to him, and obtained a single ♀, which he sent me. Mr. Meek remarked in his letter that the insect reminded him very much of *Troides victoriae* from the Solomon Islands. It is indeed a new species, standing intermediate between *Troides victoriae* and *Troides tithonus*, thus bridging over the gulf that separated *T. victoriae* from *T. tithonus*, *T. priamus*, *T. goliath*, and *T. chimaera*.

♀. Body as in *T. tithonus*. Wings more elongate than in that species. On forewing a small patch of white streaks in cell, and two parallel rows of white spots on disc; the proximal row consists of six spots, extending from R¹ to SM², the first two and the last spot small, the other three arrowhead- or wedge-shaped, spot M¹—M² being the largest, measuring 9 mm. in length, and 4½ mm. in width; the spots of the distal row are all small, the first standing in the subcostal fork; there is also a long streak of rather dispersed white scales before the subcostal fork; vein SC³ stands proximally of apex of cell, the stalk of SC⁴⁻⁵ is longer than in *T. tithonus*; the upper angle of cell is obtuse, R¹ standing nearer lower than upper angle; fringe spotted white from R² backwards.—Hindwing: SC² not quite so far distal as M²; a small spot in cell and seven large patches on disc grey-white, slightly yellow on upperside, distinctly yellow distally on underside; these patches separated from each other by broad black lines situated on the veins and joining the black marginal band, the distal half of the wing appearing grey-white streaked with black; the patches bear each a round black spot, except the first, second, and sixth, in which the spot is vestigial or missing.

Mr. Meek intends going again to the country where he found this female, and we hope that he will succeed in obtaining a good series of both sexes. The male was seen by him high in the air, but he could not get it. It had elongate wings like the female.

On account of the relationship of this new species with *Troides victoriae* we think the name *alexandrae* to be very appropriate.

There is possibly another species of *Troides* in existence in New Guinea, an insect standing in between *T. paradisea* and *T. goliath*, with the hindwing of the male less reduced than in *T. paradisea*.
